

Clear focus is the key to success

After several months of solid performance, Abe still has six weeks of operations left

Captain Dupouy
Commanding Officer

As the holidays fade behind us and we enter into a new year, more specifically the new millennium, I'd like to let you know how proud I am of the job you've done during our deployment.

The high standard of excellence sustained by everyone has been remarkable, and... you've looked out for yourselves and your shipmates. I thank you for that.

The Christmas port visit to Jebel Ali provided us the opportunity to relax a bit. From what I saw, everyone was happy for some down time in a nonoperational setting to enjoy the camaraderie of our shipmates.

Holidays can be a difficult time to be away from home and miss sharing the in the festivities with our families and friends.

Since I could not be with my family, I cannot think of anyone I would have rather spent a deployed Christmas with than the Abraham Lincoln/ Carrier Air Wing Fourteen team—the most positive and supportive group I've ever sailed

with.

As we head toward Australia, you have every reason to be proud and to feel good about what you've accomplished.

The sacrifices you make on a daily basis for our country are appreciated not only by our friends and families, but also by many people throughout our nation.

To repeat Vice Admiral Moore, Commander, FIFTH Fleet, in his farewell address to the ship and air wing, "Abraham Lincoln and its air wing have made a significant impact on the stability of this region, one that results from the hard work and dedication of each and every Sailor on board."

Have fun in Australia and enjoy your very well deserved liberty. We all deserve to relax and to take some time for ourselves, and you certainly can't beat the beautiful cities of Perth and Hobart as nice places to do just that.

Remember that we are guests in this wonderful country. Treat our hosts and their country with respect—just as you would want them to do if they visited your home—and you will be amazed at the hospitality in return.



As important, however, is that we all remember to stay focused during our remaining weeks at sea.

This deployment is not over yet, and we've come too far and accomplished too much to lose the edge now. Remain focused and think ahead on the job. Your families are looking forward to your safe return.

Have a great day... and a Happy New Year.

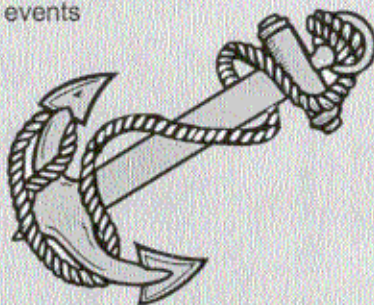
You are all great Americans.

Get Adopted in Australia!

Host-A-Sailor: Enjoy some "down under" hospitality by participating in the Fremantle/Perth Host-A-Sailor program. Stop by the Fremantle landing to view the "Host-A-Sailor" board which will display the hospitality offered and necessary contact information.

If you call and accept an invitation, you have made a commitment that must be honored. Should emergent events prevent you from meeting with your hosts, please call and let them know of the change, and return the hospitality sheet to the landing for the use of another shipmate.

For further information, call the Public Affairs Office at 7183.



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